

# DISTROHOPPER

Our pick of the latest releases will whet your appetite for new Linux distributions.

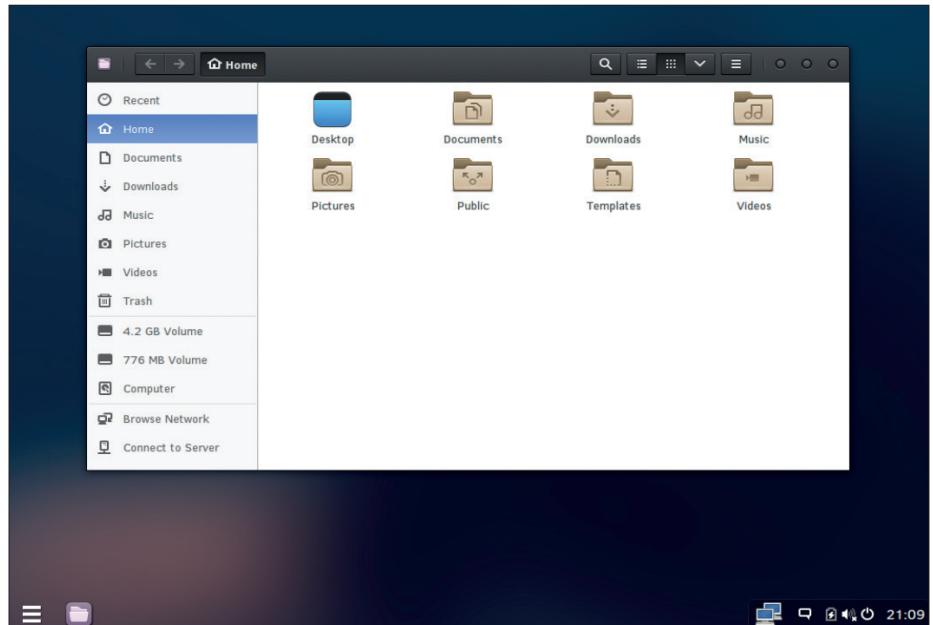
## Evolve OS

A new distro with a new look.

There are two things that make EvolveOS unique: The desktop and the package manager. The Budgie desktop environment takes the best of *GTK 3* and brings it into one really good looking desktop. It feels like the Budgie developers have taken the good bits of Gnome 3 and Unity and combined them with the simple usability of Gnome 2 to create something wonderful. They haven't recreated all the basic software; instead they rely on the Gnome 3 software stack even for things as integral as the file manager and the terminal.

Our one reservation is about the menu. At the moment, it consists of all your software in a big list with no hierarchy (although it is grouped by type). We tend to have a lot of software installed, and this approach feels like it could get cumbersome quite quickly. Hopefully this is something that will be changeable in the final release.

The package manager is called *eopkg*, and is a fork of *Pisi*, which was developed for



Evolve OS comes from Ikey Doherty, the man behind the excellent SolusOS.

Pardus (which has now dropped it in favour of *apt-get*). The idea behind *eopkg* (and *Pisi*) is to build a new package manager that cuts out the cruft that older package managers like *Yum* and *apt-get* have acquired from themselves being wrappers over other

systems, leaving a simpler command syntax.

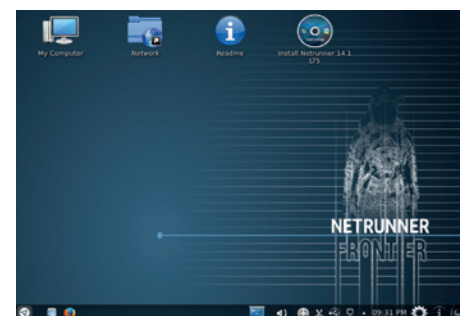
We're rarely excited about a new distro, but we are about Evolve OS. It's still in Beta at the moment, but we're expecting great things from it.

## Netrunner

Regular or rolling releases: take your pick.

KDE is a wonderful desktop environment, but it has terrible default settings. That means you either have to find a distro that makes it look nice, or do it yourself. Netrunner comes with one of the best KDE configurations around. The cashew is tucked out of the way and not left to confuse users, the Homerun kicker provides an easy way of launching applications, and the blue and grey colour scheme is inoffensive without being boring. The one thing we're not sure about is the transparent blue window decoration, but at least it's better than the usual blue glow.

Netrunner comes in two versions: the standard version is based on Ubuntu, and Netrunner is sponsored by the same company as Kubuntu (Blue Systems), while Netrunner Rolling is based on Arch (via Manjaro) and is compatible with the Arch User Repository. Which one is best depends on how you feel about rolling releases. Both have the same great KDE interface, but they offer quite different experiences because the standard version is built on Ubuntu LTS, which should remain fairly unchanged for the next four years (unless you want to update it sooner).



Want a good-looking KDE version without spending hours configuring it yourself? Netrunner could be for you.

The rolling release, on the other hand, will constantly chase the latest software giving you a more up-to-date system, but with a higher potential for breaking things. The choice, as they say, is yours.

# Bodhi 3.0.0

## In search of Enlightenment.

In September 2014, Jeff Hoogland stepped down from his role leading Bodhi Linux. Others offered to take on the job, but it seems that he just couldn't stay away. Jeff's back at the helm of the project, and version three is on the way. The second release candidate of Bodhi 3 is out, so we have a chance to see what's in store.

Bodhi is based on the Enlightenment desktop, so looks unlike almost any other distro out there. It's particularly well suited to lower-specced computers, but still comes with graphical flourishes. There's a legacy version designed to support older computers, which is designed to work with machines too old to support the PAE processor feature. The legacy version also has a slightly older version of Enlightenment.

Perhaps the most unusual thing about Bodhi is the web-based App Centre, which enables you to install software straight from your web browser. Actually, it's not that unusual. It comes to Bodhi from Ubuntu and most Ubuntu derivatives have it. There's also a similar feature in OpenSuse. The problem is that users of these distros have never



Don't let the eye candy fool you. Bodhi really does run well on older hardware.

really taken to the idea of installing software through a web browser, so we're looking forward to seeing whether Bodhi can make this work where others have failed.

We're glad to see Bodhi back, and Jeff Hoogland at the helm. It's a great distro, and the Linux world would be a poorer place without it.

## Ubuntu 4.10 The birth of a new age

Back in the early years of the new millennium, Linux was a complex beast to use. Things broke – a lot – it fixing them wasn't easy. Even installing most distros required more knowledge about your computer than the average user had. One man set out to change this, and create "Linux for human beings". That man was Mark Shuttleworth, and the distro was Ubuntu.

Warty Warthog, the first version, released in October 2004, came as both a live CD and an installable distro. At the time, that was quite a rare thing. There were live distros (such as Knoppix and Demo Linux), and there were normal distros, but bringing the two together meant you could try out Linux, then install exactly the same thing.

The earthy tones of the colour scheme may not have been to everyone's taste, but the Gnome 2 desktop worked well, and the publicity the distro received attracted many people from outside the Linux world. We meet many people today who trace their Linux using back to Warty Warthog.

These days, Ubuntu is best known for the controversies over Mir and Unity, but these are blips in its 10-year history. Ubuntu was – and still is – Linux for regular people who want a distro to just work. By focussing on this aspect, it changed the trajectory of desktop Linux as a whole and made it more accessible. For this it should be commended. We look forward to another 10 years.

In hindsight, shades of brown may not have been the most flattering colour scheme, but they did make Linux look less threatening.

